

Dale Mahlman
Executive Vice President
NE Medical Association
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Dear President Mahlman,

My name is Cyndi Kreps and I have been a certified surgical technologist for 38 years. For 25 of those years I worked in a level two trauma hospital, 3 years in a surgery center and 10 years teaching surgical technology in one of the two programs in the state of Nebraska.

Because of the current status in Nebraska prohibiting the CSFA from performing their role in the OR, I am becoming more and more concerned that the same situation will affect the practice of surgical technology in the OR. We do not just set up the table of instruments and then step back. We are handing instruments, holding retractors or using our hands as retractors. We anticipate the surgeon's next move, assist in wound closure by following suture and cutting suture at the surgeon's request. We follow their direction though out the procedure in various task and functions.

I am asking the Nebraska Medical Association to support establishing a license for surgical technologists in the state of Nebraska, as well as clearly defining the qualifications that are required by professionals to practice in these roles and establishing a scope of practice defining the tasks and functions the surgical technologist is allowed to perform.

I believe that every patient deserves to have a qualified surgical team caring for them. I also believe this is what the public already assumes when they are wheeled through those surgery doors. By finally regulating this profession the public will be assured that everyone is adequately educated in their safety and care. It will also allow the surgeon to comply with the Howard Paul vs the State of Nebraska law which states that unlicensed personal cannot be delegated to by the surgeon to perform tasks and functions that are occurring every day.

Thank you for your consideration to support creation of a license for surgical technologists.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kreps CST/CSFA, BS